

ST. EDMUND'S SCHOOL

FOR BLIND BOYS



COVER PHOTO:

Our Cover Photo shows one of the boys becoming familiar with
St. Vincent de Paul's Statue.

Nihil Obstat:

R. A. DARBY.

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Vic. Gen.,

Sydney.

7-3-67.

**ST. EDMUND'S SCHOOL
FOR BLIND BOYS**

Annual Report
and
Financial Statement
1966

Foreword . . .

**By Very Rev. Br. A. A. Loftus, Superior General of the
Christian Brothers.**

It is indeed a privilege and a pleasure for me to write the foreword to the Annual Report of St. Edmund's School for Blind Boys.

Blindness is one of the greatest afflictions a person can suffer but it is marvellous to see how the good Lord gives those so handicapped the grace to bear this privation with patience and even with joy.

From what I have heard of St. Edmund's the boys are happy and gay. They are trained to forget their handicap and live normal lives. Here they learn to be independent and self-supporting. A school such as St. Edmund's is a marvellous help both to the boys and to the community as a whole.

May I take this opportunity to congratulate the Brothers and the other teachers who are engaged in this noble work. You are giving these boys the blessing of a good Catholic education and I know in return you will receive the promised hundred fold.

We all owe a great debt of gratitude to the members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society and to the other benefactors who have so generously supported this marvellous work. I know the Lord will reward their generosity both here and hereafter.

SAINT MARY'S, MARINO,
DUBLIN.



His Eminence, Cardinal N. T. Gilroy, Archbishop of Sydney.



Christian Brothers' Annual Report

My Lord Cardinal,

In deep humility, when considering the Grace of God pervading this work, we would like to present to you the Sixteenth Annual Report of St. Edmund's School for Blind Boys. These boys under our care are specially chosen by God to fulfil a special vocation, and a share in His suffering and death on the Cross. Any person chosen to bear through life a "handicap" in our terminology, realises this in the depth of his faith, and should feel himself very close to his Creator. It is our privilege to deal with such a section of the Mystical Body of Christ.

There are so many elements and pressures existing in the world today, that even the blind boys under our care can be drawn from the path of virtue, that they know only too well is the path Christ wishes them to follow. The standard of the present group of boys at St. Edmund's is very good. Apart from the Instructions of the Brothers, which is often taken for granted, this is due to the assistance we receive from the Columban and Franciscan Fathers. The frequency of the boys' reception of the Sacraments is most edifying. A great influence on the spirit of the School is seen in the Sodality of Our Lady. Here we see boys most conscientious to self-imposed Spiritual duties. This is great character training, and discipline of mind and body. We cannot overlook the work of the Spiritual Director, Rev. Father Thaddeus, O.F.M., in this regard.

As we have often said before, our programme is intended to prepare the boys for the time when they are able to take their place in the normal activities of life. We can all appreciate the value of family life for the blind boy. The best adjusted boys we have had to deal with have parents who have accepted their child with his handicap as a normal child sent to them by Almighty God as part of His plan for their salvation. With these boys you can see the feeling of security and stability which will back them up in the difficulties they will encounter in later life. Unfortunately we still find the parent whose attitudes of over-protectiveness, or rejection, tend to produce in the child an effect that even an ideal school situation would find very hard to overcome. We must be always on our guard



S. Hamling (Chester Hill), D. Hallett (Regents Park), Des Sydes (Yagoona), R. Hallett (Regents Park).



M. Ward (Bexley), M. Baker (George's Plains).

With the co-operation of the Brothers at St. Pius X College, Chatswood, and St. Leo's College, Wahroonga, these boys are continuing their Secondary studies, one in Form VI, the others in Form IV. These boys are able to participate in all activities of the Schools and their integration with Society is considerably helped.



Left to Right: J. Maher (Brisbane), D. Young (Green Valley), N. Terlezski (Wollongong), M. Pyne (Merrylands), L. Probert (St. Ives), P. Phelps (Ashbury), P. Rosenberg (Lakemba), J. Staunton (Killara), G. Serone (Casino).



Left to Right: R. Harvey (Dulwich Hill), J. Hourigan (Kotara), C. King (Lismore), T. Mulquiney (Albury), P. Smith (Bexley), D. Purcell (Eastwood), G. Glover (Harbord).

that out of pity, or through emotional strain we do not deprive the visually handicapped child of experiences which are normal to children. All who deal with the blind can build up an image in themselves of being loving parents, devoted teachers or efficient helpers, and in thinking of the good they are doing, become very "over-protective". We must not deprive the boy of any chance to develop according to his own potential.

In a report of this nature, we often list the successes and achievements of the school, and there is the possibility of the boys becoming affected by the "impact" they are making on modern life. As the opportunities for the blind in the past have never been as good as they are now, even the slightest achievement is being noted. We should give praise where praise is due, as we would to a normal child, but we must not give the boy the idea that he is a 20th century phenomenon, because he has used his faculties, senses and opportunities to acquire a new accomplishment.

Over-confidence in the blind child can be brought about by false impressions that have been given to a blind child by the wonderment of sighted people injudiciously uttered in his presence. The effects of this tendency by unsuspecting adults could produce problems with employers and social workers, and make such a child become unbearable in his social contacts with normal people. Let us not forget that the blind boy is trying to live as a normal child and wants to be considered as such.

In 1966 there were 33 boys in attendance. These were grouped in classes from Grade III to Form V. Richard Hallett, while residing at St. Edmund's, attended St. Pius X College at Chatswood, attaining 5th place in his class, and has equipped himself successfully to take his place with a normal group of boys. Philip Scarffe also attended St. Pius X and completed Form IV. Seven boys sat for the External Form III exam and all seven passed. A synopsis of the results showed of a total of 43 subjects, 21 were passed at Credit level. Stewart Hamling and Des Sydes gained Credits in all subjects. At the end of 1966 the following boys terminated their time at St. Edmund's: Philip Scarffe (enrolled 1963), from Melbourne; Neil Bourke (1966) from Tilbuster; Otje Soediarso (1964) from Indonesia; Tony Sarkis (1965) from Woonona. These boys will be a loss to the spirit of the School, but that is the penalty we have to pay for the passing of the years.

In the results published elsewhere in the report you will see the Music results of the Australian Music Examination Board. These show that the boys attained 20 Passes including 8 Honours and 7 Credits. Peter Yangthamai passed the practical exam of the A.M.E.B. Teacher's Diploma, and at the time of printing, results in the Trinity College of Music, London, Teacher's Diploma, were not available.

For these successes we congratulate the boys and thank our



Left to Right: G. Molin (Normanhurst), W. Harrower (Guildford), T. Curtis (Mosman), W. Stammers (Parramatta), D. Hoffman (Turrumurra), M. Corrigan (Newcastle), G. Isaacs (Parramatta), B. Craig (Werris Creek).

Music Teachers — Rev. Fr. Saul, S.J., Miss M. Egan, Mrs. J. Neich, B. Mus. (Melb.), and to Mrs. Sevitt, who in a voluntary capacity greatly assisted the totally blind boys. We would like to thank Mrs. Magnus and the Royal Blind Society for their help with Braille Music Transcription. Miss Sylvia Barrett, A.T.C.L., still trains the boys most effectively in speech, and we are sincerely grateful to her.

City of Sydney and Christian Brothers' Eisteddfod results show that the boys gained 8 Firsts and 7 Seconds. Individually these are listed elsewhere.

We are grateful for the assistance given by Mr. White and his staff, at the Department of Labour and Industry. Their work is made very difficult in that employers are not aware of the working potential of a blind youth. The officers of the department are very careful that employment is achieved on merit and not out of compassion, which would be most harmful. Of last year's "leavers", Matthew Ponsonby has proved himself an efficient radio announcer with Station 2MG in Mudgee. Those who have seen Matthew at work have always brought back glowing reports of him as one who has developed into an excellent young man with the same character and personality as when we knew him at School. Reports of other Old Boys are equally as impressive.

We were sorry to hear during the year of the sudden death

of Peter Lardi (St. Edmund's 1954-1960). R.I.P. Peter's tragic death came when he was knocked over by a car. He apparently died in the ambulance on the way to hospital. Since leaving school Peter had been working at the Royal Blind Institute in Melbourne. All who knew him have spoken highly of the exemplary life he led, and there should be no doubt that Almighty God has already taken this Chosen Soul at Birth to his Eternal Reward. To Mrs. Lardi and her family we offer our deepest sympathies.

Without assistance from the Government, the cost of maintaining a school like St. Edmund's is very great, and were it not for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, the Ladies' Auxiliary and the many benefactors, these boys would not be receiving what is their due. The charity of many people is soul-stirring, while the lack of Government assistance is appalling.

Government assistance in providing teachers to the N.S.W. Institution for Deaf and Blind Children amounts to State-aid to an Institution, to which we then, are entitled. Injustices are added, too, when in matters like the School Magazine we were told large print copies would cost us a Dollar a copy. Because of the exorbitant price our Partially-Seeing Children must be deprived of what is available to normal children. When we consider these and other injustices, we can more fully appreciate the Charity of our co-workers, and we are deeply grateful.

Due to the efforts of the Ladies' Auxiliary of St. Edmund's, new desks are being made to replace those already in use. One classroom has already been completed at a cost of approximately \$500. The other rooms will be completed in the New Year.

You will notice that the greater proportion of boys at St. Edmund's is the Partially-Sighted group — a situation that varies year by year. The need of these is just as great as that of the totally-blind, in fact even more so. Because of the degree of vision he has, he may not be eligible for the blind pension, and because of the sight deficiency he cannot obtain full employment. I would like to emphasise the need then for this group of boys to be fully educated, and anyone who knows of such boys, battling in normal school with drastic psychological results would be doing an act of charity to publicise the existence of Schools for Blind and Partially-Seeing Children.

May I extend our deepest thanks to all who have helped us to make this year a successful one, to your Eminence and Members of the Hierarchy of Australia, to all the Clergy, especially our Spiritual Directors, to the Provincial of the Christian Brothers and Brothers on the Staff, to the members of the Lay Teaching Staff, to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and St. Edmund's Ladies' Auxiliary, to all who have given other voluntary services, and to all the boys for whom, because of their special place in God's plan, it is our privilege to serve.

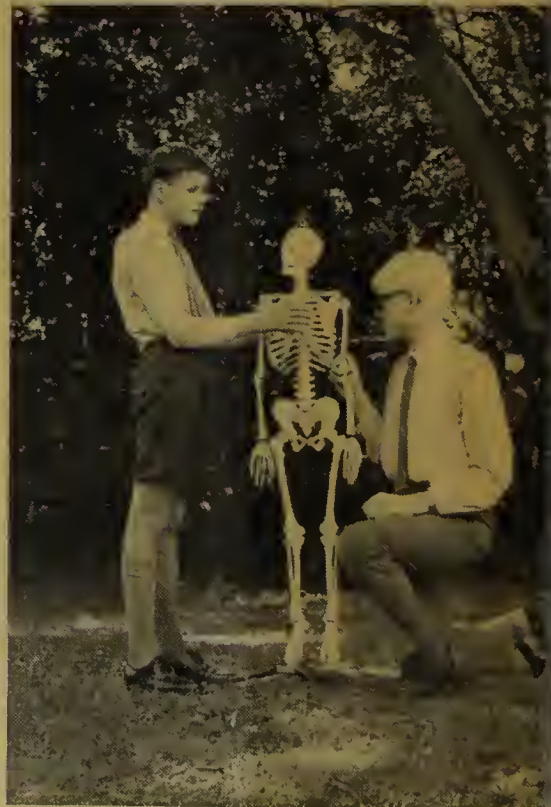
for the Christian Brothers.

J. M. ADAMS,



Co-operation to master the art of the piano: P. Yangthamai gains practical teaching experience helping one of the Juniors.

Two Secondary students study the human skeleton — part of the Science Equipment provided by the Commonwealth Government Science Grant.



Mr. L. C. Knapp, who retired as President of St. Edmund's Committee in 1966. Mr. Knapp held this position for over 4 years and had been an active member for 15 years. He has also been instrumental in organising the Bowls Day at Sutherland.



Richard Hallett, enrolled 1956, at present studying Form VI at St. Pius X, Chatswood, attained fifth place in his class last year. He is President of the Sodality of Our Lady. As a tribute to his excellent qualities he was chosen this year as a School Prefect.

Des Sydes, enrolled 1961. Gained an Intermediate Bursary in 1966. At present studying Form IV at St. Pius X. Has distinguished himself also in Eisteddfod work. In 1966 he gained first place in the Junior Tumbling Championship, as organised by the N.S.W. Tumbling Association.



Committee's Report for 1966

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is very privileged to be associated with the Christian Brothers in the work of educating and training blind or partially sighted boys at St. Edmund's. This is a work of charity — and charity is the motivating force of both the Congregation of the Christian Brothers and the Society.

The Committee's responsibility is to provide, on behalf of the Society, funds for capital expenditure and the maintenance of the school while the Christian Brothers are responsible for the internal administration of the school and the care and training of the pupils. The Report presented by Rev. Brother Adams speaks for itself and the Committee can only express its gratitude to the Brothers for their self-sacrificing zeal and devotion to their noble calling.

The year as far as the Committee was concerned was one of consolidation of the work of previous years. A study of our financial statement will show that our day to day costs have risen substantially despite our best efforts to contain these costs.

This is, of course, common to all households whether institutional or private and is a feature of our times, but it does emphasise the need for the continued generosity of our friends.

One aspect is worthy of comment, i.e. school fees represent only 10% of our current costs. Parents are asked to contribute what they can afford but the percentage quoted indicates that the only qualification for admission to the school is that the applicant be blind or his sight so impaired that his education in a normal school would be seriously impeded. This is the spirit of charity which pervades all the works of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

The Committee would be most grateful if all our friends and particularly members of the Society would bring under notice the case of any blind or partially sighted boy whom they feel is qualified by such a handicap for admission to St. Edmund's. It would be a tragedy if parents of eligible boys are not given the opportunity of enrolling them at St. Edmund's where they can be trained to take a full and active part in community life and after leaving school to earn their own living. Above all else the boys will be thoroughly instructed in the principles of Christian living.

The continued support of our friends is most necessary if St. Edmund's is to continue and grow as it has in the past. The

Committee is very conscious of the dependance of St. Edmund's on our generous benefactors who are constantly remembered in the prayers of the Christian Brothers, the pupils and the Society.

Sutherland Bowling Club once again this year made available their facilities on 31st July, and a most enjoyable and successful Bowls Day was arranged. The net proceeds totalled \$465 and the Committee deeply appreciates the support of the Sutherland Bowling Club and the many bowlers who took part.

Brother Superior has expressed thanks to our many benefactors and the Committee associates itself wholeheartedly with him in the expression of our gratitude to them all. In particular we would like to mention the Ladies' Auxiliary which has been responsible in the past 16 years, for providing items of equipment and furniture to a value of over \$10,000. In addition, the ladies have contributed substantially to the funds of the school and the welfare of the pupils.

The Committee takes this opportunity of thanking —

- (a) the various Conferences of the St. Vincent de Paul Society for their generosity to this special work, and
- (b) those Brothers who gave up their leisure time on Saturdays to keep the grounds of the school in such good order.

* * *

Items of Interest

Our guest speaker this year is the Superior General of the Christian Brothers, Rev. Br. A. A. Loftus.

This is the first occasion that we have been favoured with the presence of a Superior General of the Christian Brothers.

Brother Loftus was elected the Tenth Superior General of the Congregation in April, 1966. He was born on August 8th, 1904, in New York City, and attended the first school established by the Christian Brothers in 1918. Brother Loftus received the degree of Bachelor of Arts from St. Mary's College, Halifax, the degree of Master of Arts from Notre Dame University, Indiana, and the degree of Doctor of Philosophy from Fordham University, New York. In 1956 the Fordham University conferred on him the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Humane Letters.

Your prayers are asked that the Superior General's visit to Australia may bear all fruit possible. The visit of the Head of any Religious Order should result in new drive and incentive in all houses visited.



One of the boys using a Perkins Braille Writer. This machine has six keys for embossing the six braille dots, with the added advantage of writing the braille upwards. Recently the Social Club of Hoover Electricals presented one of the machines to the School.



Two of the new desks — showing the desk for the partially sighted with the adjustable lid. The desk for the totally blind boy is one piece.



It is pleasing to note the increasing interest of Sporting Bodies to this work. Last year St. George Leagues Club, North Sydney Leagues Club, Manly-Warringah Leagues Club, and Hornsby R.S.L., contributed to the costs of School Desks. A magnificent donation of over \$500 was given by the West Tamworth Leagues Club, for the purchase of a Trampoline. (Above). Sutherland Bowling Club again had a successful afternoon for the School. Since the earliest years of St. Edmund's the Associates of St. Michael's Golf Club have held, each year, a day for the School. To these Clubs and their members we are very grateful and full of admiration.

EXPENDITURE

	\$
Provisions	6,912.82
Household Requirements	1,518.68
Fuel, Gas and Electricity	1,087.10
Wages	8,490.91
Clothing	114.72
Repairs and Ground Expenses	1,077.22
Chapel Requirements	486.31
Music and Elocution Fees	557.97
Sporting Equipment	30.40
Swimming Pool Expenses	186.44
Postage and Telephone	641.08
Car Expenses	479.76
Water and Municipal Rates	191.12
Stationery, Books, etc.	1,070.48
Advertising	277.80
Insurance	395.68
Travelling Expenses	429.31
Bank Interest	420.32
Medical and Chemist	155.79
Christian Brothers' Stipend	600.00
Architect Fees	72.00
Annual Appeal Expenses	1,556.73
General Expenses	1,754.02
	<hr/>
	28,506.66
Depreciation: Equipment, Furniture & Vehicle	561.94
Excess Income over Expenditure	8,389.61
	<hr/>
	37,458.21

FOR BLIND BOYS

ended 31st December, 1966.

INCOME

	\$	\$
Donations —		
Society of St. Vincent de Paul:		
Metropolitan Conferences	10,388.54	
Country Conferences	1,181.40	
Interstate Conferences	78.00	
	<hr/>	11,647.94
Metropolitan Central Council		500.00
		<hr/>
		12,147.94
Public		9,472.06
		<hr/>
		21,620.00
Bequests		9,288.29
Concert Tours	825.95	
Less Expenses	463.30	
	<hr/>	362.65
Bowls Day — Sutherland	607.30	
Less Expenses	142.00	
	<hr/>	465.30
St. Patrick's Day Appeal		450.00
School Fees		2,806.31
Social Services Contribution		2,465.66
		<hr/>
		37,458.21
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ST. EDMUND'S SCHOOL FOR BLIND BOYS

SUMMARY OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

RECEIPTS

	\$
Cash at Bank, 31/12/65 —	
Current Account	2,202.54
Donations, etc., as per Revenue Account	37,458.21
Loan — Metropolitan Central Council	2,000.00
	<hr/>
	41,660.75
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PAYMENTS

	\$	\$
Expenses as per Revenue Account		28,506.66
Capital Expenditure:		
Building	544.82	
Equipment	454.28	
	<hr/>	999.10
Refund of Loan — Metropolitan		
Central Council		2,000.00
Reduction of Bank Overdraft		3,298.90
Cash at Bank, 31/12/66 —		
Current Account		6,856.09
		<hr/>
		41,660.75
		<hr/>
Bank Overdraft —		
Balance, 31/12/65		16,527.01
Less Repayments		3,298.90
		<hr/>
Balance, 31/12/66—Overdraft		13,228.11
		<hr/>

J. F. MURPHY, President.

F. A. J. REYNOLDS, Hon. Treasurer.



Some of the boys learning the intricacies of the hand-loom for weaving.



At recreation with the slot cars.



Once again the boys benefited from a weekend at Myuna Bay National Fitness Camp. Here the boys examine the plaque on the flag pole.

At Myuna Bay:
About to start out on a hike
in the bush.



At Easter, some of the boys enjoyed a few days at Tuross, being accommodated in the Franciscan house. Many pleasant hours were spent walking, fishing and boating.

Many groups have come to St. Edmund's to do work in the grounds and we are grateful for this help; but we feel that one group deserves a special mention — the Senior Boys of Newington College. At the end of the Second Term these boys carry out this practical side of their Social Study Course. We were favourably impressed with the standard of work achieved, but more so by the character and conduct of these boys. Our congratulations to the Headmaster and Staff of Newington College on being able to produce such a high standard in their boys.

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All who have been connected with St. Edmund's will be pleased to hear that David Kerin who, with the assistance of the Aborigines Welfare Board and the Commonwealth Government, went to London to study at the Royal National Institute for the Blind School of Physiotherapy, has just recently passed his final exam with the Royal Chartered Society for Physiotherapists. We all join in extending our congratulations to David.

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During the year, to help reduce our running costs, a Grocery Drive was held, and some hundreds of Dollars was saved. We wish to thank the following Christian Brothers' Schools which participated: Waverley College, Bondi Beach, Rose Bay, St. Thomas', Lewisham, and Sutherland.

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At the end of 1966 five boys left St. Edmund's — P. Scarffe (Glenroy, Vic.) 1963-66; N. Bourke (Tilbuster) 1966; K. Ogle (Stanmore) 1962-66; T. Sarkis (Woonona) 1965-66; O. Soediarso (Indonesia) 1964-66. We wish all the boys every success in employment. Since leaving school, P. Scarffe has obtained employment in the Commonwealth Public Service. Otje Soediarso has returned to Indonesia, and will be remembered as a very fine character with great music ability. He should do very well back in his own country.

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Many may not be aware of the following fact. We regret the fact that we do not receive Government support, but we would like to express gratitude to the State Government for allowing us to benefit from the subsidised Transport Scheme in conveying our boys to and from school. This service applies to all "Hospital Schools".

Ladies' Committee Annual Report

YEAR ENDING 1966

A very happy and successful year has just been completed by the Ladies' Committee of St. Edmund's.

Our project for 1966 was and still is to supply desks and chairs specially made to assist blind and partially sighted children. So far we have contributed nine desks and chairs (see treasurer's report).

We have two major functions every year. The first one was the Annual Card Party at Chatswood Town Hall. Our sincere thanks to the co-operation of the staff at the Town Hall, where a pleasant day was enjoyed by all. The Linen Raffle, which is always drawn on this day, was won by Mrs. Grafton, Unit 3, West Street, Balgowlah. The ever popular Chicken Dinner Raffle was donated by Mrs. Harry Williams, Mona Vale Road, Pymble. So, do attend the card party this year at Chatswood Town Hall, on Thursday, 8th June, 11.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.

The second function was a luncheon and fashion parade held at the home of Mrs. John O'Neill, Mona Vale Road, Pymble. Monique of Pymble organised a delightful presentation of practical and interesting summer fashions under the personal guidance of Mrs. Bowen. Miss Nevarr, beauty consultant from Dorothy Gray cosmetics very kindly compered the parade.

We are grateful to the business houses who contributed so generously to our appeals for support. They are:— Arnotts, Arcade Florist, Christine Lynch, Cadburys, David Jones, Eric Anderson, Elizabeth Arden, Farmers, Jantzen, Kayser and Mark Foy's.

Also amongst our benefactors are the St. George Leagues Club, Hornsby R.S.L. and North Sydney Leagues Club, who each donated \$73.00. Mrs. F. Coyne, who sent us a donation towards the boys' Christmas Party and picnic. Mrs. Nihall and Mrs. Juchau who had card parties in their homes and sent the proceeds to the Ladies' Committee. We appreciate these efforts very much.

Our Christmas hamper, which is getting bigger and better every year and very popular, was won by Mr. Delaney, 20 Jellicoe Street, Lidcombe.

Mrs. W. Beerworth, Treasurer, Mrs. T. Poirrier, Secretary, and the Ladies' Committee, are the backbone of our fund raising; without them I would be ineffectual. I do thank them sincerely for all their help.

This report could not finish without a word of appreciation to the Principal, Brother Adams, and the domestic staff of St. Edmund's, who are ever ready to help us solve our problems. God Bless all the helpers of St. Edmund's.

D. I. KEATING, President.

ST. EDMUND'S SCHOOL FOR BLIND BOYS LADIES' AUXILIARY

Income & Expenditure for year ended 31st December, 1966

INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
	\$		\$
Balance in Bank, 31st December, 1965	249.09	Masses and Bereavements	10.00
Donations and proceeds of Card Party at Chatswood, 9th June, 1966	604.80	Purchase of Linen for School	64.00
Less Expenses	21.00	Purchase of Nine Special Desks	622.90
		Purchase of Nine Special Chairs	121.50
		Bus for Boys' Picnic	35.00
Bank Interest	583.80	Ice Cream, Boys' Picnic	6.70
Donations from —	31.18	P. A. Sarks Engraving — Mrs. Healey's	
St. George Leagues Club,		Donation of Stations of the Cross	10.00
North Sydney Leagues Club,		Christmas Presents	31.23
Hornsby R.S.L. Branch	219.00	Christmas Party	23.72
Luncheon Party at Residence of Mrs. John O'Neill, 84 Mona Vale Road, Pymble; Christmas Raffle and Donations	1,432.75	Balance in Bank	1,548.66
Less Expenses	84.01		
	1,348.74		
Donation from Mrs. Coyne — Boys' Christmas Party	50.00		
	2,481.81		2,481.81

D. I. KEATING, President.

JEAN BEERWORTH, Treasurer.



**The boys enjoy a joke with Rev. Fr. Leis, P.P.,
Tamworth, before leaving after the concert.**

Our Concert Tour this year was to Kempsey and Tamworth. The boys were well looked after by the Brothers of the Christian Brothers' Schools in both centres, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and many people who took the boys into their homes for the period. The concerts were well patronised, and the boys benefited from their experiences. In Tamworth the boys presented a few items at the Ex-Services Club and the Workman's Club. Mention has been made elsewhere of the enthusiasm of the West Tamworth Leagues Club to help our cause. An effort of raising over \$500 in one Sunday morning Raffle would take some surpassing. Thanks to all who made this venture so successful.

A group on the boat with the
Fellowship of St. John's.



Another side to the story at
Tuross — boat trouble and
much advice.



As part of the boys' education takes in excursions to places of interest and to industries, every opportunity is availed of to make the most of these occasions. This year one of the most memorable afternoons was enjoyed on board H.M.S. "Kent" where the officers and crew entertained the boys to a party. They were shown around, entertained, presented with presents, and partook of a great assortment of eats. Our picture shows two of the boys with what must be the most tested beard in the British Navy.

During each year the boys are taken out by small groups for picnics. We cannot adequately assess the full impact of these groups of young people on the social integration of our boys. In 1966 we were privileged on two such functions to be associated with the Catholic Bushwalkers, and St. John's Fellowship, Presbyterian Church, Wahroonga. Thanks to these for the pleasant days' outings.

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The year 1966 saw another of our old boys receive the Sacrament of Matrimony. Gary Byrnes, who was at St. Edmund's from 1953-59, is now the fourth from the School to be married. We wish Gary and Mrs. Byrnes many years of happy married life.

On one of the nice spots of the gardens, the boys make their way along. Perhaps hesitantly, at first, but acquiring an independence that does not portray over-confidence.



At the morning break, the boys enjoy the usual refreshments of normal boys. Here one of the characteristics of the older partially-sighted boys of St. Edmund's is brought out as they unselfishly assist others during this period.



Typical schoolboy and milk — supplied by the Department of Education.



Two of the boys relax on a hike in the bush.

Research in "Compressed Speech"

(Condensed from a lecture by Mr. W. T. Heisler, B.S., M.S., Perkins School for the Blind, Massachusetts, U.S.A., at the Conference of Teachers for the Blind School in South Australia, 1966).

"The rate at which Braille can be read will always lag seriously behind the speed of reading attained by print readers. Also the number of books available on Braille will probably remain far below those available in print.

In view of this important deterrent to rapid and varied reading by blind persons, a number of investigators have conducted research in the area of speeding up recorded reading. The project investigated by this group of Investigators is entitled 'The Comprehension of Rapid Speech by the Blind'.

In an initial study this group demonstrated that blind school children in the sixth, seventh and eighth grades, and without prior experience in listening to rapid speech, demonstrated good comprehension of unfamiliar prose presented at a rate of 275 words per minute. This placed the children on a par with their seeing peers. However, at higher rates than 275 words per minute, comprehension began to fall off rather rapidly.

Much of the research since this initial study has been conducted with a view to discovering an effective training procedure that would enable listeners to comprehend very rapid speech (375 words per minute and faster). One generalization, according to research workers, that seems warranted is that the average listener, even without special training, can understand most types of reading matter when it is presented at a rate of from 250-275 words per minute. This, of course, is a significant improvement over the word rate experience of the person who listens to conventional speech recordings.

The easiest way to achieve rapid speech is simply to play recorded speech at a rate faster than that of which it was recorded. The trouble with this, however, is that there is a resulting distortion in pitch and voice quality which interferes with comprehension. The alternative approach has achieved speech compression or speed-up by means of the speech sampling method in which segments of recorded speech are discarded during the playing process and the resulting gaps eliminated. Such a method relies for its success upon the amount of redundancy in spoken language. These discarded segments are small enough so that the ear does not detect their absence and also no entire speech sound is lost."

All blind students will be eagerly looking forward to hearing more of this form of recorded speech.

RESULTS FOR 1966

SCHOLASTIC RESULTS —

Form V — R. Hallett.

Form IV — P. Scarffe.

Form III — D. Sydes (Bursary), M. Baker, N. Bourke, D. Hallett, S. Hamling, N. Terlezski, M. Ward.

CITY OF SYDNEY EISTEDDFOD, 1966 —

Percussion Band performance — 1st Place.

N. Terlezski — Vocal, 16 and Under — 2nd Place. Vocal, 14 and Under — 1st Place.

D. Hallett — Verse Speaking, 16 and Under—1st Place. Verse Speaking, 14 and Under — 1st Place. Prepared Speech — 1st Place. Sight Reading, 14 and Under (A) — 2nd Place.

P. Yangthamai — Instrumental Contest for Adult Blind — 1st Place.

P. Smith — Music, 10 and Under — 1st Place. Sight Reading, 10 and Under (B) — 1st Place.

D. Sydes — Verse Speaking, 14 and Under — 2nd Place. Sight Reading, 16 and Under (A) — 1st Place. Sight Reading, 14 and Under (A) — 1st Place. Prepared Speech — 2nd Place.

D. Purcell — Sight Reading, 10 and Under (A) — 1st Place.

P. Phelps — Sight Reading, 14 and Under (B) — 1st Place.

D. Young — Sight Reading, 14 and Under (B) — 2nd Place.

M. Baker — Sight Reading, 16 and Under (A) — 2nd Place.

P. Scarffe — Instrumental Music Contest for Adult Blind — 3rd Place.

Choral Contest for Schools for the Blind — 2nd Place.

Dramatic Contests for the Blind — Group A. Seniors — 1st Place. Group B, Primary — 2nd Place.

CHRISTIAN BROTHERS' EISTEDDFOD RESULTS —

Pianoforte Solo (Open) — Peter Yangthamai — 1st.

Pianoforte Duet (Open) — Peter Yangthamai, Otje Soediarlo — 3rd.

General Instrumental — Under 12 — Peter Phelps — 2nd (Trumpet). Peter Smith — 3rd (Flute).

Group Singing (Soprano Voices) — 3rd.

Group Singing (Mixed Voices) — 2nd.

Speech Solo — Under 16 — Dallas Hallett 1st.

Speech Solo — Open — Dallas Hallett 2nd.

Speech Solo — Under 13 — Des Sydes 3rd.

Speech Solo — Under 14 — Nicholaus Terlezski 2nd.

A.M.E.B. RESULTS, 1966 —

M. Baker — 3rd Perception 82 — 3rd Grade Flute 73 — 2nd Grade Flute 87.

P. Smith — 1st Practical 90.

D. Sydes — 4th Practical Piano 75 — 4th Practical Trumpet 80 — 3rd Perception 90.

N. Terlezski — 3rd Trumpet 79 — 3rd Perception 85.

P. Scarffe — 4th Perception 76.

P. Phelps — 4th Practical Trumpet 72 — 3rd Practical Piano 85 — 3rd Perception 87.

G. Serone — Preliminary 65.

J. Maher — Preliminary 38.

D. Purcell — Preliminary 39.

G. Glover — Preliminary 65.

N. Bourke — 3rd Perception 69.

M. Ward — 3rd Perception 83 — 4th Clarinet 79.

D. Young — 3rd Perception 81.

O. Soediarlo — 6th Practical Piano 85 — 3rd Perception 94.

S. Hamling — 3rd Practical Piano 69 — 3rd Perception 87.



Prayer for the Intercession of St. Vincent de Paul:

O Blessed Saint Vincent, Father of the poor and Apostle of Charity, obtain for us, who are gathered under your Patronage, a share in that burning love for God and man which filled your soul. Pray for us to our Lord that we may faithfully serve Him in His poor and sanctify ourselves by steadfastly following our example, through the same Christ Our Lord. Amen.

ANOTHER BOWLS DAY to help St. Edmund's
BOWLERS CAN HELP US BY FIRST OF ALL RESERVING
SUNDAY, 30th JULY

This will be held at
SUTHERLAND BOWLING CLUB
Commencing at 1.30 p.m.

Bookings can be made by contacting MR. L. C. KNAPP

— 'Phone: 528 9787 —

Bowlers are also invited to a **CHARITY DAY**, to assist to
purchase a Talking Book for one of our boys — at
YAGOONA BOWLING CLUB—SUNDAY, APRIL 23rd,
1.30 p.m.

PLEASE KEEP THIS IN MIND —

C A R D P A R T Y

Organised by the Ladies' Auxiliary of St. Edmund's
at **CHATSWOOD TOWN HALL**
THURSDAY, 8th JUNE, 1967

Bookings can be made through Mrs. L. Keating. Phone: 44 1544

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THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
cordially invite you and your friends to attend

THE SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL APPEAL

at

ST. EDMUND'S SCHOOL FOR BLIND BOYS

*CONDUCTED BY
THE CHRISTIAN BROTHERS*

to be held in

THE SCHOOL GROUNDS

60 BURNS ROAD, WAHROONGA

SUNDAY, 16th APRIL, 1967

2.30 P.M.

Concert Items by the Pupils

His Grace Archbishop J. Carroll, will preside.

*Special Address will be made by Very Rev. Brother
A. Loftus, Superior General of the Christian Brothers.*